

c) REMARKS

The claims are 12-16 with claims 12 and 13 being independent. Former claims 1-11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Consideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

New claim 12 corresponds to former claims 5, 9 and 11. New claim 13 corresponds to former claims 5 and 6. Claims 14-16 correspond to former claims 7, 8 and 10, respectively.

Support for the amendments to the claims is found, inter alia, in Figs. 1, 4 and 5 and on specification page 13, lines 11-13; page 15, lines 4 and 5; page 21, lines 3-5 and page 21, lines 14-22.

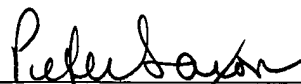
Applicants affirm the provisional election of Group II, claims 5-11 and have cancelled the non-elected claims without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application thereto.

Applicants note that claims 6 and 11 were deemed to be allowable over the art. Accordingly, to resolve the art rejection, the subject matter of claim 6 has been added to claim 5 and presented as new claim 13 and the subject matter of claim 11 has been added to claims 5 and 9 and presented as new claim 12. Since each of the independent claims contains allowable subject matter, then the claims dependent on them are, likewise, allowable.

There being no further issues, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that the case be passed to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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